

R. Frank Nims Middle School Summer Reading

May 2011

Dear Parent or Guardian:

We believe that reading is a valuable skill that must be practiced over time in order to show improvement. Reading is also an enjoyable experience that can easily be treasured over the summer months. Therefore, all future sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will be required to read at least two (2) books this summer. After reading each book, students will be able to choose between several assignment options. You may borrow these books from the public library or purchase them from a bookstore (Borders, Barnes and Noble, Books-a-Million). Students should complete the two (2) assignments (one for each book) before school starts in the fall. Students are required to bring their assignments with them to school and turn them in to their Language Arts teacher no later than Friday, September 2, 2011. Teachers will NOT accept assignments after this date.

Selecting Books

Students are required to choose one (1) book from the Suggested Reading Book List. Students can select any book they would like to read for the second book. Current middle school students may find their Scholastic Reading Inventory Recommended Reading Report list or a book that falls within their Lexile Level a helpful place to start selecting a book. This Scholastic Reading Inventory list is only a suggestion and students may choose any book they like. It's important that the student and parent choose the summer reading books together, keeping in mind the reading and maturity levels of the student along with his/her interests. You have an opportunity to express your talents and personality while enjoying a variety of novels. You must choose one (1) project per book – you will turn in two (2) projects. Don't forget- your teacher has read these novels – so s/he will know if you do not read and try to finish the project through summary sites!

Grading Procedures:

Students need to read two books and complete two assignments. Any combination of the assignments listed below will be accepted. For example, a student could complete option A for one book and option B for the other book OR complete option C for two different books. Students will be graded on the assignments based upon following the instructions listed in this packet. This grade will count for up to ten percent of your student's first marking period grade in Language Arts. Students should select books to read that they have not already read for previous class or summer reading assignments.



Assignment Options

Complete one (1) assignment for each book.

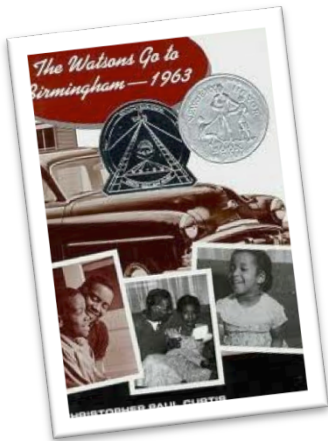
A. Collage: Make a collage illustrating the theme, mood, or setting of the book. The collage should contain at least 15 different items. You can use almost anything in a collage to get the effect you want. Clippings from magazines, books and other paper images, stamps, paint, small objects of any type may be used, as long as they will stick to your backing or paper. Materials such as: cloth, string, leaves, and shells all can be used as well. You may use paper that is 8½" X 14" - 11" X 17", no large posters or backboards. On the back explain in two to three paragraphs (5-7 sentences each) what theme, mood, or setting you are representing and how the items are relevant.

B. PowerPoint: Create a Power Point presentation that promotes your book to other readers (more than a trailer- you should give the ending away). Include 10-15 slides with at least 1 image/graphic per slide. The Power Point slide show should use text, color, graphics, and animation. Your Power Point needs to have depth. It should explain the plot, setting, main characters, symbolism, historical context, and the main themes. The final slide or two should be your opinion of the novel. Each slide should represent a different element of the novel (characters, setting, plot, climax, conclusion, symbolism, themes, etc.) The presentation itself should persuade others to read the novel. Be sure to cite every source on the Internet from which you take information – text, pictures, video, clip art, backgrounds, etc.. Print a copy, create a disk/CD for your teacher, or save your presentation to a flash drive and bring it to school no later than Friday, September 2nd.

C. Timeline: Make a colorfully illustrated timeline of the events in the book. Make sure your timeline includes at least 10 events with a two-sentence description and small picture, drawing, or clipping describing each event. Use paper that is 8½" X 14" - 11" X 17", no large posters or backboards.

D. Compile a Scrapbook or Memory Box: Choose one of the major characters in your book and, as that person, put together a scrapbook or memory box of special memories and other keepsake items. Letters, photographs, postcards and souvenirs are all good items for the memory box and can be easily created. Think about who your character is close to and what s/he does for fun. Remember, this should represent the character you chose. Draw, create, collect, or find at least six souvenirs that the main character would put into the scrapbook or collect in a memory box. These objects should reflect events in the story or important features of your character. Include an explanation next to each object and describe its significance.

E. Design a Travel Brochure: Design a travel brochure for the destination of the book's setting. Clearly tie the destination to your book. Illustrate and advertise the setting of your novel. Use words and pictures to convince your readers that this setting is an exciting (interesting, educational, relaxing, scenic, historical, etc.) place to visit. Your brochure must include facts about the destination, reasons for visiting, possible attractions, events or sights to see (according to the book). It must include at least 15 - 25 sentences and at least 10 pictures (clip art, drawings, etc.). Use paper that is 8½" X 11" - 11" X 17", papers may be folded.



The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 (1000L/5.0 A.R.)

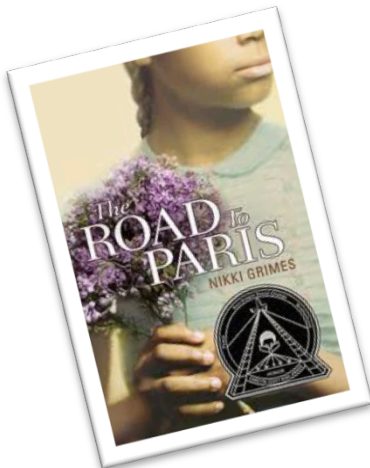
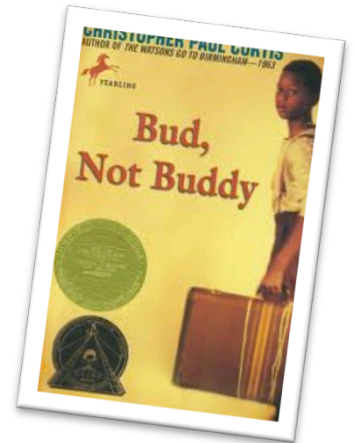
Christopher Paul Curtis

When Kenny's 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up.

Bud, Not Buddy (950L/5.0 A.R.)

Christopher Paul Curtis

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud's got a few things going for him.



Road to Paris (700L)

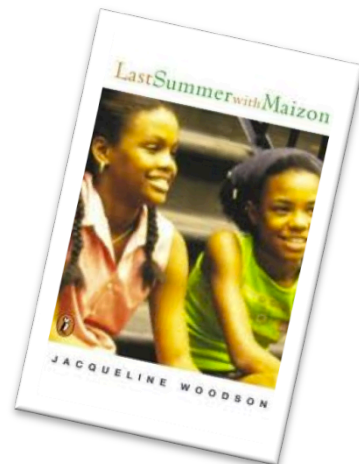
Nikki Grimes

Inconsolable at being separated from her older brother, eight-year-old Paris is apprehensive about her new foster family but just as she learns to trust them, she faces a life-changing decision.

Last Summer with Maizon (620L)

Jacqueline Woods

Eleven-year-old Margaret tries to accept the inevitable changes that come one summer when her father dies and her best friend, Maizon, goes away to a private boarding school.



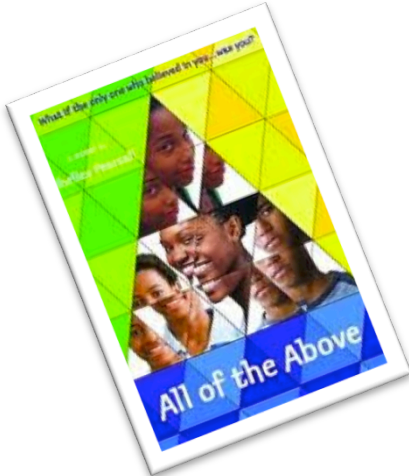
Two-Minute Drill (880L)

Mike Lupica

Brainy Scott, a great kicker who otherwise struggles with football, and star quarterback Chris, who has dyslexia, team up to help each other succeed in both football and school.

The Misfits (960L)**James Howe**

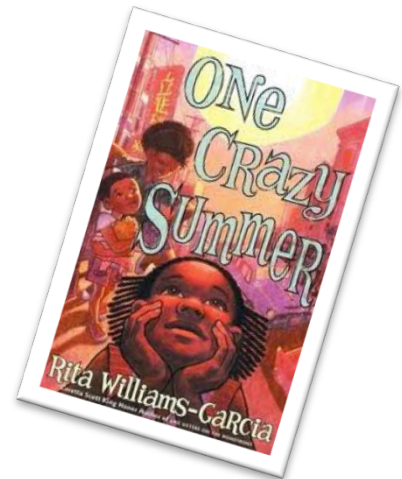
Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.

**All of the Above****Shelley Pearsall**

James, Rhondell, Sharice, and Marcel attend the same inner-city school. Their teacher Mr. Collins challenges these diverse students to build the world's biggest Sierpinski tetrahedron in an after-school club. Based on a true story.

**One Crazy Summer (750L)****Rita Williams-Garcia**

It is 1968, and Delphine and her two sisters have been put on a plane from Brooklyn to California to spend a month with their mother, a poet who abandoned the family years ago. During this crazy summer, the girls not only learn about their mother and the politics of this time period, but they each grow individually and come to better understand each other.

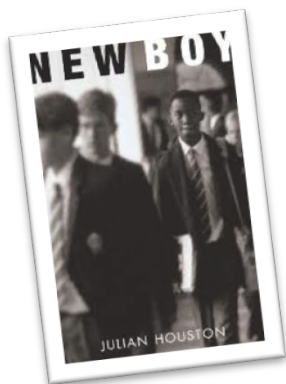
**Project Mulberry (690L)****Linda Sue Park**

While working on a project for an after-school club, Julia, a Korean American girl, and her friend Patrick learn about silkworms. During the project they also learn about tolerance, prejudice, friendship, and patience. Interaction between Julia and the author at the end of each chapter provides clues about the book's direction.

**Basketball (or Something Like it) (570L)****Nora Raleigh Baskin**

Hank, Nathan, Jeremy, and Anabel deal with the realities of middle school basketball, including family pressure, a series of coaches with very different personalities and agendas, and what it means to be a team and a friend.

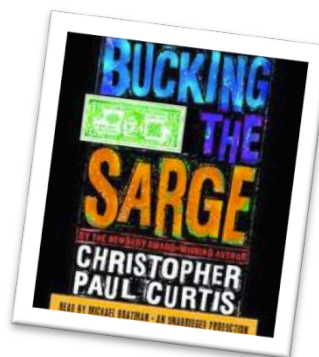


**New Boy****Julian Houston**

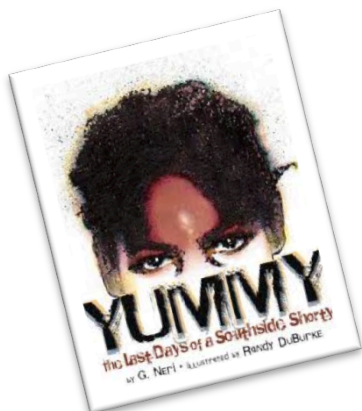
As a new sophomore at an exclusive boarding school in the 1950s, Rob Garrett, a young black man, is witness to the persecution of other students and wonders about the growing civil rights movement back home in Virginia.

Bucking the Sarge (1000L)**Christopher Paul Curtis**

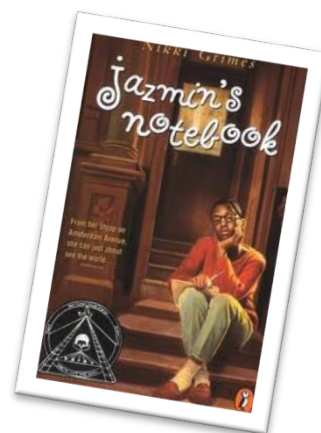
Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

**Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty****G. Neri**

A brief biography, in graphic novel format, of Robert "Yummy" Sandifer, an eleven-year old African American gang member from Chicago who went on the run after shooting a young girl and was later found dead, shot by members of his own gang.

**Jazmin's Notebook (980L)****Nikki Grimes**

Jazmin, an African-American teenager who lives with her older sister in a small Harlem apartment in the 1960s, finds strength in writing poetry and keeping a record of the events in her sometimes difficult life.

**Gifted Hands (950L)****Ben Carson**

Describes the African American physician's fight to beat the odds, the secret behind his outstanding accomplishments, and what drives him to take risks.

